

# The Pretender: How Martin Frankel Fooled the Financial World and Led the Feds on One of the Most Publicized Manhunts in History (Wall Street Journal Book)

Ellen Pollock

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A respected Wall Street Journal senior writer tells how Martin Frankel fooled the financial world and led the Feds on one of the most publicised manhunts in history. It's a story with all the makings of a television drama: a reclusive financial whiz bilks insurance companies out of 200 million dollars, attracts a harem of young women, outsmarts a posse of bumbling federal agents in a chase across Europe, and leads some ver famous people down the garden path. Yet it's all part of the very real life of Martine Frankel. The Pretender chronicles how a nerdy thirty year old used his financial skills to build an intricate Ponzi scheme based on lies and his amazing gift for luring businessmen, including Democratic power broker Robert Strauss, into his web. While Frankel's stolen millions allowed him to easily transform himself from mama's boy to corporate mogul, his attempts to go 'global' proved more challenging. Nevertheless, his creation of a phony Catholic charity drew the attention of priests with close Vatican ties and a new group of mysterious business partners, until increasing paranoia caused Frankel to vanish from his Greenwich estate, beginning a bizarre chase across Europe that would climax in a German hotel room.



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